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**PRO BONO PROJECT**

West Tennessee Legal Services  
PO Box 2066  
Jackson, TN 38302-2066

## HOW THE PROJECT WORKS

West Tennessee Legal Services, Inc., screens Project applicants for income eligibility and evaluates cases for probable merit. Clients' income must be less than 125 percent of the poverty level to qualify for assistance.

The Project presents a pro bono case referral in one of the areas preferred by either telephoning, faxing or e-mailing a brief description of the case to the volunteer attorney. Case acceptance is contingent on the attorney's availability.

The Project forwards written confirmation of the referral to the client and to the volunteer attorney. The client is directed to call the attorney to schedule an appointment.

The Project sends two forms required for the Project file to the volunteer attorney. The Case Initiation Report is returned after the initial client interview. The Final Report is returned at case closure with a copy of the final document.

Upon case closure, the Project reimburses the volunteer attorney any expenses incurred for mileage and long distance telephone calls. The Project also reimburses filing, service and publication fees, deposition, court reporter, and transcription expenses that have been pre-approved by the Project Director when the client cannot pay.

Clients referred through the Pro Bono Project may not be charged attorney fees. However, attorney fees collected from an adverse party may be retained by the volunteer attorney.

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# PRO BONO PROJECT

In  
sponsorship with  
**Bar Associations Across  
West Tennessee**

*Lawyers Making Equal Justice  
A Reality Through  
Pro Bono Commitments*

**PRO BONO PROJECT**

West Tennessee Legal Services  
210 West Main Street  
PO Box 2066  
Jackson, TN 38302-2066  
(731) 423-0616 ext 308  
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kathrynt@wtls.org

The greatness of our legal system depends on it's availability to all individuals...

I encourage all attorneys to participate in local pro bono programs. *Hon. Lyle Reid, former Justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court*

### ***NEED IN THE COMMUNITY***

Approximately 496,000 persons live in the 17-county area served by the Pro Bono Project. Of that population, nearly 89,000 live below the federal poverty level, and more than half are children and seniors.

When indigent persons face a problem that requires legal action, they do not have the resources to retain legal counsel. Many turn to West Tennessee Legal Services, Inc., to help them gain access to justice. Recent Funding reductions have limited the services provided by West Tennessee Legal Services, Inc., and without your help, the legal needs of the indigent population will not be met.

In 1989, West Tennessee Legal Services, Inc., in cooperation with local bar associations, established the Pro Bono Project as a legal resource for indigent persons with civil legal problems in Benton, Carroll, Chester, Crockett, Decatur, Dyer, Gibson, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Henry, Lake, Madison, McNairy, Obion, and Weakley Counties. Many dedicated private attorneys have supported the Project and represented hundreds of eligible clients in matters crucial to their well-being. Meeting the legal needs of our indigent population continues to be a challenge.



### ***WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP***

You may register with the Project to help ensure that no one is deprived of the right to legal counsel. You may choose to help by either agreeing to represent at least one client per year on a pro bono basis in any of the areas you designate, or if your practice does not allow you to undertake direct representation of a client, you may help by donating a block of time to provide legal advice to clients at the Project office located at 210 West Main Street in Jackson, Tennessee.

Your commitment to the Project is vital. Without attorneys who are willing to volunteer their services, many persons in need will be denied access to the legal system and deprived of the opportunity to seek protection against violence and abuse, assert their rights to a habitable living situation, or take action to guarantee other basic legal rights which many of us take for granted.

The Project also provides a great source for obtaining satisfaction that can bring you back to what the profession is all about. By giving your time and skills to help less fortunate Tennesseans, you will be giving something back to the community and moving the profession closer to its ideals.



### **VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS ARE OFFERED THE FOLLOWING SUPPORT:**

- CLE training and materials at reduced rates or at no charge.
- In-house access to West Tennessee Legal Services, Inc., library facilities, including computer access to legal resources on the Internet
- Professional liability insurance of up to \$75,000 on cases referred through the Project
- Consultations and technical assistance through West Tennessee Legal Services, Inc., attorneys and staff specialists
- Case referrals through the West Tennessee Lawyer Referral Service. Referrals include fee-generating personal injury and bankruptcy cases as well as other case types that are not within the priorities established by the board of West Tennessee Legal Services, Inc., or are not handled by WTLS due to Legal Services Corporation Restriction.
- Tennessee Commission on CLE awards Ethics and Professionalism hours based on the number of hours donated through a pro bono program.
- Quarterly Newsletter providing case law updates, CLE announcements and other information of interest to attorneys in West Tennessee.

### **PROJECT REGISTRATION**

I will represent indigent clients in any of the case types checked below:

- Adoption
- Divorce
- Custody
- Guardianship/Conservatorship
- Insurance Claims
- Landlord/tenant
- Protective orders
- Wills/Powers of Attorney
- Dependency and Neglect
- Termination of Parental Rights
- Real Property
- Contracts
- Consumer Rights
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

I am willing to accept \_\_\_\_\_ case referrals per year.

OR

I prefer to donate a block of time at the Project office. Please contact me about how I can become involved.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Firm \_\_\_\_\_

Street/P.O. Box \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ BPR \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I am a member in good standing of the Tennessee Bar.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature* *Date*

For more information or to register contact:  
Kathryn M. Tucker,  
Pro Bono Project Director  
Phone: 731.423-0616 ext.308  
Fax: 731.423.2600  
Email: [Kathrynt@wtls.org](mailto:Kathrynt@wtls.org)/ Website: [www.wtls.org](http://www.wtls.org)